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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01
COME-00 ACDA-07 /105 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:PS
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPOST
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FT, FR, PDEV

SUBJECT:RESULTS OF DJIBOUTI ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

1. FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED AT DEPARTMENT MARCH 23
TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF PARIS ROUNDTABLE ON DJIBOUTI.

2. HE CONFIRMED THAT ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS WERE COMPOSED
OF GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAMIL AND SEVERAL OF HIS
MINISTERS, AN LPAI DELEGATION LED BY HASSAN GOULED AND
AHMED DINI, A DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY,
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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNI MINORITY GROUP, AND THE FLCS.
THERE WERE NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNI MAJORITY, THE
MPL, OR THE MLD.

3. THE ROUNDTABLE AGREED THAT THE REFERENDUM AND
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.
ALTHOUGH ABDUL KAMIL HAD AT FIRST OPPOSED PARLIAMENTARY

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ELECTIONS, HE ULTIMATELY AGREED. THE LPAI AND FLCS PROPOSED THAT THE ENTIRE FTAI BE TREATED AS A SINGLE ELECTORAL DISTRICT. KAMIL AND BARKAT GOURAT (PRESUMABLY SPEAKING FOR THE AFAR INTERESTS) OPPOSED THIS. THE COMPROMISE WAS: ONE "ELECTORAL DISTRICT" CONSISTING OF THE ENTIRE TERRITORY BUT DIVIDED INTO ELECTORAL SECTORS IN WHICH THE 65 REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE APPORTIONED AS FOLLOWS:

DJIBOUTI 29, TADJOURA 12, DIKHIL 12, ALI SABIEH 6, AND OBOCK 6. (COMMENT: THE COMPROMISE APPEARS TO MAKE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSION TO LPAI/FLCS PROPOSAL.) BOTH THE FLCS AND BARKAT GOURAT WITHHELD THEIR CONSENT FROM THIS COMPROMISE.

4. CONFERENCE ALSO DISCUSSED FUTURE COOPERATION BY THE FRENCH AND THE REPUBLIC IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, COINAGE/CURRENCY, RADIO AND TELEVISION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND THE AIRPORT. IT WAS AGREED THAT DJIBOUTI WOULD REMAIN WITHIN THE DOLLAR ZONE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT A FRENCH MISSION WOULD BE SENT TO DJIBOUTI AND ADDIS TO DISCUSS THE POST-INDEPENDENCE STATUS OF THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN RAILWAY.

5. THE RANGE OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR MILITARY COOPERATION WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, AMONG WHICH WERE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO TRAIN A NATIONAL ARMY AND AN AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN FRENCH FORCES IN DJIBOUTI TO DEFEND THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC. IT WAS DECIDED THAT A MISSION FROM THE MINISTRIES OF COOPERATION AND
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DEFENSE WOULD BE SENT TO DJIBOUTI TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER AND TO PREPARE DRAFT ACCORDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE066997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWSCOTT:PS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-1257
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: PDEV, FT, FR, US
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e26d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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